REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 13 , 2005. Claims 1-9 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1-3 are in independent form. Claim 10 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein, and Claims 1-9 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly, Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over an excerpt from Using Netscape Communicator 4 (Brown). Cancellation of Claim 10 renders its rejection moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that independent Claims 1-3, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from Brown for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention, as set forth in Claim 1, is directed to a form processing device for reading a field data file storing information corresponding to data to be overlaid onto each of a plurality of fields in a form, and for overlaying the data corresponding to the information stored in the read field data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form. The form processing device includes first and second determination means and overlaying means.

The first determination means determines whether a field associated with the information stored in the field data file is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid. When the field associated with the information stored in the field data file is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid, the second determination means determines whether the information stored in the field data file is

- 8 -

URL data. When the second determination means determines that the information stored in the field data file is the URL data, the overlaying means downloads the external file from a network server based on the URL data and overlays the downloaded external file onto the field.

One of the notable features of Claim 1 is that the form processing device overlays data corresponding to information stored in a field data file onto a predetermined field in a form. By virtue of this feature, a user need not directly input data to a field but rather the user can use a field data file (an example of which is shown in Fig. 9A) to store information indicating data to be overlaid. Thus, the user can directly describe the data in the field data file if the data to be overlaid to the field is text data (i.e., in this case, the information stored in the field data file can be the text data). If the data to be overlaid to the field is a bitmap file, however, the user can use the information stored in the field data file to indicate a storage location of the bitmap file. The form processing device reads the bitmap file stored in the storage location and overlays the bitmap file (not the information stored in the field data file) to the field. This is accomplished using the first determination means, which determines whether the field associated with the information stored in the field data file is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid.

Further, with the form processing device of Claim 1, even if a bitmap file is stored in Web server on the Internet (i.e., even if the information stored in the field data file indicates a storage location of the bitmap file, e.g., URL data), the bitmap file can be read and overlaid to the field. That is, when an external file is to be overlaid on the field, the second determination means determines whether the information stored in the field data

-9-

file is URL data. If so, the overlaying means downloads the external file from a network server based on the URL data and overlays the downloaded external file onto the field.

Brown is understood to teach that if a URL is inputted to a location field of the Netscape Navigator program, a file corresponding to the URL is displayed on a main display window. Further, Brown is understood to teach that the Netscape Navigator program is configured to automatically complete an address that is inputted to the location field based on previously inputted content stored in a history list.

Nothing has been found in Brown that is believed to teach or suggest a form processing device for reading a field data file storing information corresponding to data to be overlaid onto each of a plurality of fields in a form, and for overlaying the data corresponding to the information stored in the read field data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form, wherein the form processing device includes "first determination means for determining whether a field associated with the information stored in the field data file is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid," and "second determination means for determining, when the field associated with the information stored in the field data file is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid, whether the information stored in the field data file is URL data," and "overlaying means for downloading the external file from a network server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the field, when said second determination means determines that the information stored in the field data file is the URL data," as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Brown, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

- 10 -

Independent Claims 2 and 3 each include features similar to those of Claim 1, and therefore are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above. The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent Claims 1-3 and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.
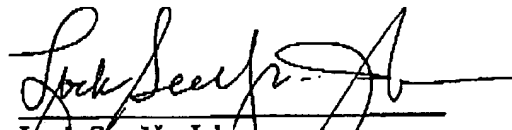
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of this application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

- 11 -

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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- 12 -